

Letters to the editor

Course evaluations are not anonymous

To the Editor:

It's course evaluation time again. You know, that time at the end of the semester when you are given a chance to honestly critique your course, instructor, and textbook. Before you take the time to write thoughtful and helpful comments, you should be warned that these evaluation forms are not completely anonymous.

As I warn my own students, your instructors will receive your evaluation forms early next semester. Someone will have compiled the numerical ratings but, rather than take the time to compile and type up your comments, your forms will be returned as you submit them.

I hope that this won't affect your responses. Your comments can be helpful. It is not, however, fair to solicit your comments under one set of conditions and evaluate them under another. As a graduate student who teaches a course, I too have filled out these course evaluations and was quite surprised when I later received my students' comments. It didn't take too much to realize my professors had received mine. In a small course in which the sequel is taught by the same professor, I felt that it was unfair to ask me to honestly evaluate an instructor without letting me know that he would be

reading my comments while I was once again one of a handful of students in his class. My comments would not have changed, but maybe yours would.

In speaking with graduate students responsible for teaching or grading undergraduates last year, Assistant Dean Richard Derr said that the evaluation forms are useful as a source of feedback for the instructor and they will also be used as a resource in judging faculty for advancement and tenure. These are two very good reasons to continue the evaluation process, but are we

going to receive good honest evaluations from students who may be concerned with reaction to a constructive but not politic comment? Also, if scores are compiled but not comments, then it is difficult to see how the comments could be used in faulty evaluation.

Several graduate students raised the issue of anonymity to Derr and he said that is was a good point. When I last checked, the procedure was the same as last year. It was suggested that I have my students print their responses.

At this point in the semester I

have collected and graded over 40 homework assignments, both printed and in cursive. Without meaning to I will be able to recognize some of my students' handwriting, and yet I urge them and I urge you to still take the time to fill out these course evaluations carefully and honestly. I also hope that instructors will continue to receive your comments but in a form that will maintain your anonymity.

Daniel H. Steinberg
Graduate Student in Mathematics

Minority article overlooks MEIOP

To the Editor:

In reference to the November 18 article entitled "Minorities Lack Support" we, the MEIOP-Student Association members would like to address some of the issues you neglected to address in the aforementioned article. The title implies that minorities at CWRU have lacked any support in the past. However, that is not the case.

We appreciate the efforts of *The Observer* to sensitize the CWRU community concerning the minority situation; however, we feel that you overlooked the accomplishments

and support provided by Margaret E. Boulding, director of Minority Engineering programs and MEIOP-SA for the past 15 years.

The issue also contained an editorial describing the need for a Minority Center. The MEIOP-SA Study Center has been providing tutoring facilities, computing facilities, academic support files, and a place to congregate socially for all minority students at CWRU since 1983. The MEIOP support system also provides a unique interface opportunity for MEIOP-SA members and representatives from the For-

tune 500.

Margaret E. Boulding has been at CWRU for 26 years, 15 of those as Director of Minority Engineering Programs. She is the person we go to talk to about our problems. Because she has been a part of the CWRU community for so long, not only as a student but also as an able administrator, we feel we can relate to her.

Finally, as far as minority recruitment and retention rates are concerned, MEIOP provides academic programs beginning with the sixth grade and continuing with recruitment at the high school level. The supposed "lack of support" at this University has resulted in an overall retention rate of 64% for black undergraduate students, a difference of only 2% when compared to the 66% overall retention rate for white undergraduate students. Much of this success is attributed to programs like MEIOP.

It is amazing that a number of "new" University programs are duplicating the already successful achievements of MEIOP—a program that our Student Association feels has limited financial support from the University.

Signed by 27 members
MEIOP-Student Association

Enforcement appreciated

To the Editor:

Referring to your cover story "Students Attacked", I often read and hear about crime on campus and in the close-in neighborhoods. It does not surprise me at all. The campus police are busy giving out parking tickets and in Cleveland Heights, they are busy giving out speeding tickets. However, their intense and time consuming efforts to enforce the strict letter of the law does provide a revenue stream.

Sincerely,
Harvey M. Salkin
CWRU Professor

WRUW responds to earlier letter

To the Editor:

Last issue's letter to the editor from Herb Lichtman, entitled "Student Offers Economic View of WRUW" contained many incorrect facts, and came to a ridiculous conclusion.

The figures on WRUW's budget are incorrect. Our total budget is about \$50,000 while we only receive \$31,000 from the media board. In fact, our budget is the smallest of any of the other college radio stations in Cleveland, and yet we make the most revenue from our yearly telethon.

There certainly are no publications that receive less money than we spend on bumper stickers.

Lichtman's suggestions for becoming financially independent are absurd, and devoid of any meaning. We are not permitted by the FCC to

run commercials.

Increasing sponsorship will not reduce our budget by that much even though we are always looking for underwriters. Lichtman also suggested that we continue our telethon. Until when? FOREVER? Does he suggest that we ask for money all year round? It would be impossible to be totally listener supported with our limited power and with the time constraints of a student staff.

Lichtman says, "The vast majority of students would prefer any of the above options (for WRUW to be self supporting)." Where did he come up with this revelation? Did he poll all the students? Is he speaking as the president of the Undergraduate Student Government? No, he is just an uninformed student making a hasty generalization.

It would be nice to distribute money to other organizations, but we are locked into the present system. Besides, any reduction in our budget currently can only be redistributed within the media board.

WRUW is one of the largest student organizations on campus. WRUW has about 100 students that are currently involved with the station. WRUW provides an excellent resource of alternative music to all the students all year long. Contrary to what Lichtman said, many students are reaping the benefits of WRUW.

It is ironic that Lichtman mentioned R.E.M., 'Til Tuesday, and the Romantics; all these groups started out on WRUW and other college radio stations around the country. Tune into WRUW and hear the future of music. We offer students a chance to expand their mind, which is what a university is supposed to do. If we played the same music everyone does we would waste our portion of the activity fee.

Our books are open for inspection, and we are diligent in overseeing where our money is spent. Our budget was approved by the media board, and we are prompt in reporting our expenditures to the media board.

Sincerely,
Brian Davis
General Manager, WRUW

Father regrets error

To the Editor:

It has come to my attention, through a telephone conversation I had with Francis Uy that I made an error. I erroneously credited him with a letter that was written by Timothy Calhoun. I made this error in haste and with poor research skills. I in no way disagree with the position set forth by Uy. In fact I totally agree that Robert Georgi and Calhoun have a right to their opin-

ions and beliefs.

Again I apologize to Uy for characterizing him unfairly and incorrectly. I invite Calhoun to get in touch with me if he so desires so that we may discuss this issue as my remarks regarding insularity are not changed.

Sincerely,
P. T. Liggett
Father of an undergraduate

Something Or Other

by Chris Williams

Su Pider and I were sitting in my room celebrating our return from Thanksgiving break with a large bottle of rum. After a few hours, when we were both good and drunk, we started sharing stories. Su told me this one of how he pledged **IIIII** fraternity when he was a freshman two years ago.

"I was a freshman, and I quickly realized how boring CWRU was. I started rushing different fraternities, but finally ended up pledging **IIIII**. During rush they had seemed really cool. As soon as pledging started, though, I realized how great these guys really were, and how much they had to teach me about myself.

"**IIIII** brothers were experts at hazing. I couldn't have asked for anything better; they really taught me how one can learn to appreciate a fraternity through symbolic acts like drinking toilet water. I learned the value of pledge class unity by helping one of my best friends to bed, and sitting up with him all night while he kept getting sick from all the alcohol the brothers had made him drink. Most of all, I learned to respect the obvious superiority of the brothers through serving them, cleaning up after them, and running errands for them.

"I think some of my best college memories are of being hazed as a pledge. Being forced to do exercises at five in the morning wearing only my underwear really helped to get me into shape, even though I did get frostbite once. After some of the things I was forced to eat. I now have one of the most iron-clad stomachs I know. And I think nothing beats the time that we were all made to drink so much such that we were all able to throw up on the fraternity house next door.

"I thought that once I became a brother, I'd still be able to enjoy everything that I did about pledging; mainly, that I'd still be hazed. But they stopped hazing me, and treated me as an equal. They even wanted me to haze our spring pledges, which I couldn't do. So, I eventually depledged.

"I would have pledged somewhere else, but I knew from rumors that the Tri-Pi's hazed the hardest, so all the other fraternities' pledge programs would seem like disappointments, especially those fraternities that I heard actually don't even haze.

"Imagine that, no hazing."